

REMARKS

Claims 1, 2, 4-7, 9-12, 14 and 15 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 1, 6 and 11 are amended and claims 3, 8 and 13 are canceled. No new matter is added. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Entry of the amendments is proper under 37 CFR §1.116 since the amendments: (a) place the application in condition for allowance by incorporating the allowable subject matter of canceled claims 3, 8 and 13 into independent claims 1, 6 and 11, respectively; and (b) do not raise any new issue requiring further search and/or consideration as the amendments amplify issues previously discussed throughout prosecution and during the personal interview. Entry of the amendments is thus respectfully requested.

Applicant thanks the Examiner for the indication that claims 3, 8 and 13 contain allowable subject matter.

Applicant appreciates the courtesies shown to Applicant's representative by Examiner Ehne in the May 9, 2007 personal interview. Applicant's separate record of the substance of the interview is incorporated into the following remarks.

I. The Pending Claims Define Patentable Subject Matter

The Office Action rejects claims 1, 2, 4-7, 9-13 and 15 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) over U.S. Patent No. 6,898,733 to Parks.¹ This rejection is respectfully traversed.

The rejection of independent claims 1, 6 and 11 is rendered moot by the incorporation of the allowable subject matter of claims 3, 8 and 13, respectively.

For at least these reasons, independent claims 1, 6 and 11 and the claims dependent therefrom are patentable over the applied reference. Withdrawal of the rejection of the claims is respectfully requested.

¹ Applicant believes the rejection was intended to refer to claims 1, 2, 4-7, 9-12, 14 and 15.

II. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of the pending claims are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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